

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated October 17, 2005, claims 1-11 are pending, claims 1-4 and 7 are rejected and claims 5, 6 and 8-11 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicant respectfully submits that the original claims are not indefinite. However, the claims have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as invention. The scope of the claims is not changed by the amendment. No new matter is added.

The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors that have been found. No new matter is added.

Claims 1-4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 20020033572 (Takisawa et al.). Takisawa et al. fails to teach or suggest the presently claimed invention. Takisawa et al. describe a paper feeder having an engagement piece and pivot arm positioned outside of the outer casing member with the shaft and pivot point outside the outer casing member.

To the contrary, for example, as set forth in claim 1, the original transport apparatus of the present invention has

an engagement piece disposed **in the outer casing member** on a second shaft positioned perpendicular to the direction of sheet transport so as to permit independent pivotal displacement thereof ;
said engagement piece being capable of engaging with the stopper member.

Thus, when the outer casing member is closed and the apparatus is in an original take-up standby state, engagement of the stopper member by the engagement piece causes the stopper member to be retained in a position in which the stopper member stops the lead edge of the sheet at the prescribed location, thereby constraining the lead edge at the prescribed location and

preventing entry of the sheet into the transport path; and when the outer casing member is closed and takeup of the sheet is proceeding, the engagement piece is displaced in pivoting fashion, thereby disengaging engagement between the engagement piece and the stopper member, permitting pivoting displacement of the at least one stopper member and allowing transport of the sheet .

In addition, Claim 1 is directed to an embodiment of the present invention that facilitates retrieval of originals which have become stuck in the original transport path. Claim 1 recites the following features:

- An original transport apparatus automatically taking up one or more originals one sheet at a time from a loading tray and transporting said sheet toward a transport path, said apparatus comprising:

- a tray for loading said originals, the tray being inclined downward and having a lower tip region;

- an outer casing member arranged above said lower tip region;

- a first shaft positioned perpendicular to a direction of sheet transport;

- said outer casing member disposed so as to permit opening and closing about said first shaft;

- a stopper member positioned in the lower tip region of the tray against which the originals can abut and align prior to transport;

- an engagement piece disposed in the outer casing member on a second shaft positioned perpendicular to the direction of sheet transport so as to permit independent pivotal displacement thereof;

- the stopper member causing a lead edge of said sheet to stop at a prescribed location;

- said engagement piece being capable of engaging with the stopper member;

- wherein, when the outer casing member is closed and the apparatus is in an original takeup standby state, engagement of the stopper member by the engagement piece causes the stopper member to be retained in a position in which the stopper member stops the lead edge of the sheet at the prescribed location, thereby constraining the lead edge at the prescribed location and preventing entry of the sheet into the transport path; and

- wherein, when the outer casing member is closed and takeup of the sheet is proceeding, the engagement piece is displaced in pivoting fashion, thereby disengaging engagement between the engagement piece and the stopper member, permitting pivoting displacement of the at least one stopper member and allowing transport of the sheet.

Thus, in accord with the invention set forth in claim 1, the outer casing member is permitted to open and close about the first shaft. When the outer casing member is open (i.e. when rotated from an original supply position to an open position), the transport path opens so as to allow transport of a sheet. When the outer casing member is closed (i.e. when rotated from the open position back to the original supply position), the claimed invention can prevent the stopper member from abutting and damaging a sheet.

Takisawa et al. discloses that the rotating arm 16 is provided with a pickup roller 12 for feeding the sheet 11 and a first arm 18 for restricting the front edge of the paper 11. Takisawa et al. also discloses that the rotating arm 16 is caused to rotate around the center of rotation 14.

However, Takisawa et al. fails to disclose or suggest the features of claim 1 mentioned above.

It should be noted that the rotating roller 16 of Takisawa et al. merely rotates around the center of rotation 14 between the waiting position and the paper supply position. Takisawa et al. does not disclose one of the characteristic arrangements of the invention set forth in claim 1, i.e., “the outer casing member is allowed to open about the first shaft (i.e. allowed to rotate from the original supply position to the open position) so as to open the transport path and permit transport of a sheet.”

Further, the present invention is concerned with the problem that the lead edge aligning member (the stopper member) abuts a sheet when the outer casing member is brought from the open position to the closed (i.e. standby) position. On the other hand, Takisawa et al. fails to disclose or suggest any arrangement for addressing this problem.

Thus, Takisawa et al. fail to teach or suggest the presently claimed structure.

Further, in another embodiment of the present invention as set forth in claim 2, the claimed original transport apparatus further comprises **an arm member located and pivotally supported at a first end within the outer casing member** and a **third shaft** at a second end of the arm member, to which the stopper member or members is pivotally secured.

Takisawa et al. also fail to teach or suggest the claimed structure of claim 2.

In a further embodiment of the present invention, as set forth in claim 3, the original transport apparatus structure is such that when, during the course of closing the outer casing member from an open state, the stopper member which is engaged with the engagement piece abuts and is pressed upward by the sheet in the tray, thereby causing the second end of the arm member to be displaced upward in pivoting fashion about the first end, in accompaniment to which the stopper member moves upward within the outer casing member.

It is not seen where Takisawa et al. teach or suggest the apparatus as claimed.

In yet another embodiment of the present invention, as set forth in claim 3, the original transport apparatus has a lifting piece integrally connected to the arm member [which is within the outer casing member] for lifting the engagement piece upward; wherein, when closing the outer casing member from the open state, the stopper member which is engaged the engagement piece abuts and is pressed upward by the sheet in the tray, thereby causing the second end of the arm member to be displaced upward in pivoting fashion around the first end, in accompaniment to which the stopper member moves upward, and the lifting piece moves upward so as to further

lift upward the engagement piece and thereby disengage engagement between the stopper member and the engagement piece.

It is not seen where Takisawa et al. teach or suggest the claimed lifting member.

In yet another embodiment of the present invention, as set forth in claim 7, the original transport apparatus includes a pickup arm disposed in the outer casing member so as to permit displacement in pivoting fashion about one or more shafts arranged in one or more directions perpendicular to at least one of the original transport direction or directions; said pickup arm having a pickup roller for taking up said sheet from the tray;

wherein, when the outer casing member is closed and the apparatus is in an original takeup standby state, the fact that the pickup roller is positioned in an upper region within the outer casing member causes engagement to be retained between the stopper member and the engagement piece, constraining a location of the lead edge of said sheet and preventing entry of said sheet into the transport path; and

wherein, when the outer casing member is closed and takeup of said sheet is proceeding, the pickup arm is displaced downward to cause the pickup roller to move downward and away from the outer casing member so as to not be hidden thereby, and linked with the downward displacement of the pickup arm, the engagement piece is displaced in pivoting fashion, thereby disengaging engagement between the engagement piece and the stopper member, permitting pivoting displacement of the stopper member and allowing transport of said sheet.

It is not seen where Takisawa et al. teach or suggest the claimed pickup arm.

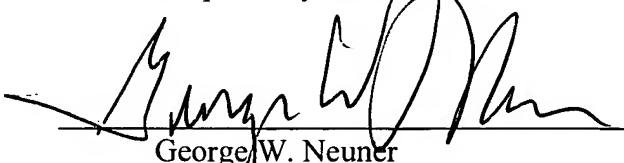
Thus, it is not seen how the present invention is anticipated by Takisawa et al. Nor is it seen how the present invention would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of Takisawa et al.

Because claims 5, 6 and 8-11 depend from the examined claims, they also should be reinstated and allowed with claims 1-4 and 7.

In view of the amendment and discussion above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early reconsideration and notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

If for any reason an additional fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge or to refund Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,



George W. Neuner
Reg. No. 26,964

Date: March 13, 2006

EDWARDS ANGELL PALMER & DODGE LLP
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, MA 02205
Tel: (617) 439-4444

Customer No. 21874